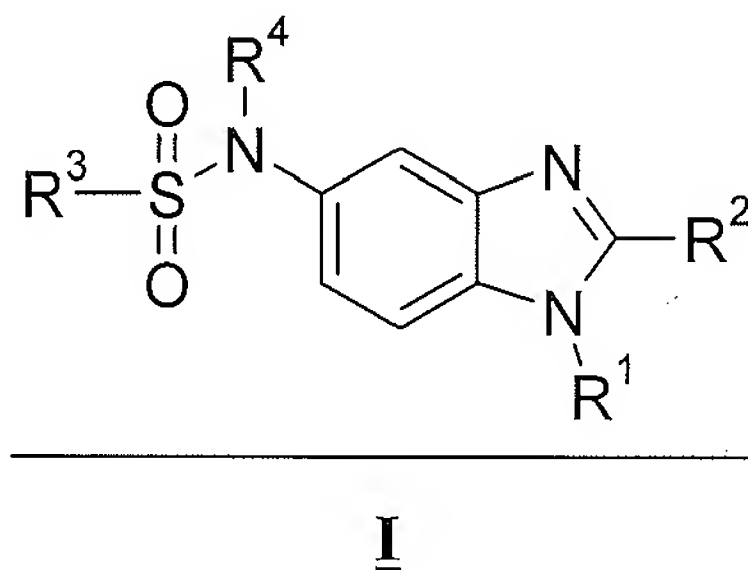


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

1-2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) A compound as ~~claimed claim 1~~, of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, phenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl used in defining R^1 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, and $-NR^5R^6$;

R^2 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl used in defining R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and $-NR^5R^6$;

R^3 is selected from C_{2-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl and $R^9-N(R^8)$ optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl, and;

wherein said C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl contain at least one nitrogen ring atom and the radical of C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl is located on the at least one nitrogen ring atom, and wherein each of R^8 and R^9 is independently selected from $-H$, C_{1-6} alkyl, morpholinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, pyrrolidinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, and piperidinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, morpholinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, pyrrolidinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, and piperidinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, morpholinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, pyrrolidinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl, and piperidinyl- C_{1-3} alkyl,

alkyl, and piperidiny-C₁₋₃alkyl are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and -NR⁵R⁶; and

R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from -H and C₁₋₃alkyl; and
the compound is not:

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N,N,N'-trimethylsulfamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N',N'-diethyl-N-methylsulfamide;

N'-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N,N-dimethylsulfamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methylbutane-1-sulfonamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methyl-2-morpholin-4-ylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methyl-2-piperidin-1-ylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-2-methoxy-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-tert-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl]-2-[(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

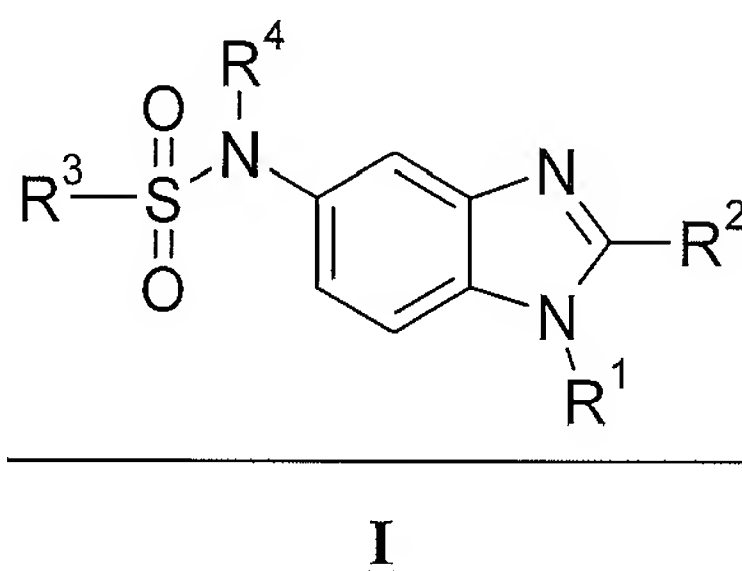
2-(2-Aminoethoxy)-N-[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methylethylsulfonamide;

N-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}-N-methylbutane-1-sulfonamide;

N-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}-N-methyl-2-piperidin-1-ylethanesulfonamide and or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (Currently amended) A compound as ~~claimed in claim 1~~, of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

R¹ is selected from cyclohexylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 4,4-difluorocyclohexanemethyl, cyclohexylethyl, cyclopentylethyl, tetrahydropyranylmethyl, tetrahydrofuranylmethyl, 1-piperidinyethyl, N-methyl-2-piperidinylmethyl and benzyl;

R² is selected from t-butyl, n-butyl, 2-methyl-2-butyl, isopentyl, 2-methoxy-2-propyl, 2-hydroxy-propyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 1-cyclopropyl-ethyl, 1-methyl-propyl, 1,1-dimethyl-propyl, 1,1-dimethyl-3-buten-1-yl, ethyl, and 2-propyl;

R³ is C₂₋₅alkyl and R⁸R⁹N-, wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from -H, and C₁₋₃alkyl;

R⁴ is selected from -H, C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, C₂₋₁₀alkynyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆alkyl; and the compound is not:

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N,N,N'-trimethylsulfamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N',N'-diethyl-N-methylsulfamide;

N-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N,N-dimethylsulfamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methylbutane-1-sulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methyl-2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methyl-2-morpholin-4-ylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methyl-2-piperidin-1-ylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-2-methoxy-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-2-[(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

2-(2-Aminoethoxy)-N-[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-N-methylethanesulfonamide;

N-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}-N-methylbutane-1-sulfonamide;

N-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}-N-methyl-2-piperidin-1-ylethanesulfonamide and or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~3~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11-16. (Canceled).

17. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.